

# THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

## Kitchen Plans Put Heat on Noe Ministry's 'Church' Status

By Jeff Kaliss

Church and state have always been uneasy partners. Back in the 16th century, religious leader John Calvin tried to turn Geneva, Switzerland, into a "City of God" by banning recreational activities.

But here in 20th-century San Francisco, the tables have been turned: the secular authority (in this case, the city Planning Department) is telling the church (the Noe Valley Ministry, a Presbyterian church at 1021 Sanchez St.) to "cease and desist" its broad range of recreational, cultural, therapeutic, and educational activities.

It's either that or obtain a special permit to continue these operations. And the permit process might expose the Ministry to accusations from the Planning Department or neighbors that it's trying to be more than just a church.

The Ministry sits on the block of Sanchez Street between Elizabeth and 23rd, in an area zoned RH-3, for residential use only. According to the city code, commercial activities in a residential zone require a conditional use permit and a hearing before the Planning Commission. However, most churches around the city were grandfathered in under the code, allowing their continued existence despite their non-residential uses in residential locations.

Carl Smith, the Ministry's pastor, resents the city's forcing him to apply for a permit. He points out that the directive was the unexpected upshot of a plan by the Ministry's senior lunch program to revamp the kitchen area at the rear of the building's first floor.



Noe Valley Ministry pastor Carl Smith is frustrated that after 12 years on Sanchez Street, his church must now obtain a special permit to continue hosting its wide assortment of meetings and activities, including a seniors lunch program. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

Although the city had granted a building permit to renovate the Ministry's toilets in 1987, the seniors' architect, John Schlenke, ran into a bureaucratic wall last fall when he tried to get a similar permit to do the kitchen work. He was informed that there was a "hold on the file," due to a six-year-old letter from neighbors on the south side who had complained that noise from kids in the tiny Ministry playground and from evening users of the building was disturbing their sleep.

"These were people who worked at night and wanted to sleep in the morning," recalls Smith. "And we went through a whole Community Boards [conflict resolution] process at the time and got it resolved."

Robert Willden, the Ministry's current building manager, met with Barry Pearl of the Planning Department's violation abatement section last October to point out that the "hold" should long ago have been removed and to inform the official of the Ministry's current activities.

Instead of an okay to proceed with the kitchen work, the meeting resulted in an "Order to Cease Violation of the Planning Code," dated Oct. 11, and a demand by the department that the Ministry obtain a permit "to establish use of the property as a neighborhood center or community cultural center."

"We wrote back and said, 'No, we're a church, we've always been a church, everything we do here is as a church, and this doesn't apply to us,'" reports Smith. "Then we got a letter [from Zoning Administrator Robert Passmore] dated Dec. 1, saying he didn't contend that our use as a church was illegal, but that the use couldn't be intensified."

Frustrated with "this bureaucratic way of looking at things," some of Smith's parishioners tried to elicit political support from inside City Hall. Smith also met with leaders of the Presbytery of San Francisco, which owns the Ministry.

On the advice of the Presbytery's law-

## *The Never-Ending Story*

## Library Faces New Round of Cutbacks

By Jane Underwood

Last summer, when Noe Valley residents rallied to keep the Noe Valley Library from closing, they won the battle—but not necessarily the war.

The city's 1989-90 fiscal year begins July 1, and because of a projected budget deficit of \$58 million, San Francisco's libraries have once again been targeted for possible cutbacks—to the tune of \$900,000, or 5 percent of the library's budget.

According to Sally Brunn, a Hoffman Avenue resident and active member of Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, neighborhood libraries are in store for trouble if these proposed cuts go through.

"The Library Commission, at the request of the mayor's office, did come up with a list of possible cuts," said Brunn. "But none of them are satisfactory."

If approved, the tighter budget would mean reduced branch hours, smaller book budgets, and decreased children's activities. The Main Library would also be closed one extra day a week.

In addition, noted Brunn, the cutbacks would lead inevitably to "demoralizing" staff reductions.

Debby Jeffery, children's librarian at the Noe Valley branch, echoed Brunn's sentiments. "If we get another cut, it's going to be bad news. There's just no fat left. You can't cut electricity, water, or the physical plant. That leaves only books and staff."

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## *A Homestay Away from Home*

## Bed and Breakfasts In Our Own Back Yard

By Mark Robinson

A new trend in Noe Valley business and neighborhood life has, with little fanfare, emerged in the last year. Several local residents have begun quietly opening their homes to paying guests.

In contrast to the commercial bed and breakfast inns that have mushroomed in the past decade, these neighborhood establishments offer what have become known as "homestays"—private rooms in private homes, rented out on an occasional basis.

So now, when Aunt Betty and Uncle Jake make their annual spring trek to San Francisco, their relatives (living in already-cramped apartments) need not



In addition to teaching foreign languages and doing daycare, Sheila Ash provides for herself and 3½-year-old daughter Kendra by renting out a room in her 23rd Street home to visitors from out of town. Guests are invited to use the hot tub or have a professional massage in the gazebo in Ash's backyard. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

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## Library Services Threatened Again

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Like Jeffery, Noe Valley Head Librarian Roberta Greifer is wringing her hands. "If our book budget gets cut again, on top of last year's 14 percent cuts," she says, "we will have to cut many more of the new books that we normally obtain. These are the books that people most often want, such as bestsellers in both fiction and non-fiction, in both the adult and children's sections."

"It's very tough to decide which books to eliminate from our recommended lists. Should we save the fingers or should we save the toes?"

But perhaps worst of all is the threat of staff reductions at the 451 Jersey St. branch. "We now have only one librarian much of the time, when there should be two," said Jeffery. "Roberta and I get sent on a regular basis to other libraries, especially on Saturdays, which is one of our busiest days."

"We never know where we're going to be sent, and once we get there, it's very difficult to work when we don't know our way around that branch."

In addition, notes Jeffery, neither she nor Greifer has any back-up help when one of them gets sick or goes on vacation.

Staff morale is low throughout the entire city workforce, said Jeffery, because

of the budget crunch. "We're all under the same strain, trying to provide the same service with less people. And it's very discouraging to go backwards, not forward."

But there are things that people can do. Keep Libraries Alive, the legislative arm of the Friends, is encouraging all public library supporters to write a letter of protest to Mayor Agnos.

"Write a short note, telling in your own words why the library can't take more cuts," said Brunn. "Letters can make the difference between a library currently running on a barest-of-bones budget and a library shattered with additional cuts."

Greifer also suggested that concerned library users show their support by "being informed, continuing to use your branch, and becoming actively involved in Keep Libraries Alive." Above all, she said, "Don't take anything for granted."

Send "Dear Mayor Agnos" letters to the Honorable Art Agnos, City Hall, San Francisco, CA 94102. Or write to Nancy Walker, chair of the Finance Committee at the Board of Supervisors, which will be reviewing Agnos' proposed budget this month. For more information, call Sally Brunn, 641-0561, or the Noe Valley Library, 285-2788. □

## LETTERS 25¢

### Stand Up for Comedy Club

Editor:

I understand that the city Planning Commission recently voted to oppose the Courtyard Cafe's request for a permit to host the Holy City Zoo comedy club at its 24th Street restaurant ["Planning Commission Frowns Upon Cafe Comedy," April 1989 issue].

It is unfortunate that I was out of town at the time of the Planning Commission meeting, because I am much in favor of the comedy club's presence in Noe Valley, and I would have urged the commission to vote for the permit.



Entertainment is a service that Noe Valley lacks, and a small "conditional use" comedy club is about as benign and unobtrusive as entertainment can be. Roars of people's laughter would probably create far fewer decibels than the Muni equipment that roars up 24th Street.

I know and respect the owners of the Courtyard Cafe, and I am sure they too want the best for Noe Valley. Their efforts to keep a quiet and respectable operation would be worthy of a city as cultural and diverse as San Francisco.

Bruce Curtis Bowser  
Clipper Street

### It's Hard to Walk on the Wild Side

Editor:

Over three months ago, I wrote the mayor and the chief of the Department of Public Works regarding the raised sidewalk in front of the city parking lot in the 4000 block of 24th Street (near Hopwell's)...to no avail. Because tree roots are cracking the pavement, people

are constantly falling or tripping—I have turned my ankle twice. You may be familiar with this yourself.

R. W. Arrant

*Editor's note: Yes, the Voice staff has done some tripping there ourselves. We'll check into it.*

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# Group Gets The Drop on Furry Offenders

By Grace D'Anca

All around Noe Valley, residents say they're tired of stepping in it. They agree it's time for irresponsible dog owners to clean up their act.

Harvey Milk's 1977 "pooper-scooper" law, which requires dog owners to clean up after their pets, is still on the books (along with another regulation that says all dogs must be leashed when off their owner's property). But the *Voice* talked to many neighborhood residents last month who complained that stray dogs and negligent dog-walkers are causing a dog poop problem in Noe Valley.

The abundance of dog feces in the grass at Noe Courts, the small city park at 24th and Douglass streets, prompted members of the Elizabeth-Douglass SAFE Group to schedule an early morning cleanup of the park on Saturday, April 22. Organizers hoped that by getting out at 8:30 a.m. they could talk with some of the dog owners they routinely see leaving deposits at the Courts.

Elizabeth Street resident Mary Wickstrom, one of the organizers of the cleanup, says she no longer allows her toddler to play in the grass at the Courts because of the dog-doo hazard.

"We're not a vigilante committee that's anti-dog-s-t," Wickstrom stresses, however. "Many of the SAFE Group members have dogs and didn't think about this until they had kids. But this is about kids and dogs, not kids versus dogs."

Mike Beere, who lives on 24th Street across from the park, says the Elizabeth-Douglass group's plan to confront pet owners "can't hurt" and might help to discourage some of the people who let



Elizabeth Street resident Mary Wickstrom was a member of the dog-doo detail at Noe Courts the morning of April 22.  
PHOTO BY JOEL ABRAMSON

their dogs defecate at the Courts on a daily basis.

"People go out early just when the sun comes up, probably so no one will see them," Beere said. "It'd be one thing if they had a bag and made an effort to clean up afterwards. But the law's being flagrantly violated. And you never see a cop around. You just can't use the lawn area—it's all over the place."

Gary Thompson, co-owner of the Animal Company pet store at 24th and Douglass, also has a bird's-eye view of the park, but thinks the vast majority of "people who live in this neighborhood are very responsible about picking up their litter." Though a variety of pooper-

scoopers are available at the Animal Company, he said, most of his customers use the free plastic bags from the grocery store to clean up after their dogs.

Thompson speculates that "people probably bring their dogs to the Courts because there's no director there."

"The complaints also tend to be cyclical," he added. "It's a big issue when it's hot and dies down when it cools off."

Nearly every morning and evening, Mike Underhill, wearing a business suit, can be seen walking Jackson, his golden retriever puppy, on and around 24th Street. Underhill says he carries a supply of plastic bags and paper towels to clean up after Jackson and that the other dog-walkers

on his route are equally responsible.

"It's the strays that cause the problem," said Underhill. "All the other dog owners I see are fine."

According to SPCA Public Information Officer Lynn Spivak, the owners who fail to clean up after their dogs are committing a misdemeanor for which they can be fined \$15 for a first offense and double for repeat offenses.

She says the reason there is so little enforcement of the litter law is that animal control officers spend most of their time responding to higher-priority stray and injured animal calls. Spivak also

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## Walkin' the Dog

*Continued from Page 3*

noted that the SPCA has fewer stray dogs than ever before—probably because of a citywide trend toward cat ownership.

She advises dog owners to take their best friends to any of the 19 locations in San Francisco designated by the Recreation and Park Department as official dog run areas. Dogs may run without a leash in these spots, but owners are still required to clean up after them.

Noe Valley's official dog run is located in Upper Douglass Park, on the wooded ridge high above the playing field at 27th and Douglass streets. Unfortunately, according to a group of dog owners who regularly bring their pets to Upper Douglass, the dog run is less than ideal.

Debra King was the only member of the small group willing to be identified, but the others nodded in agreement when she said, "The dog run is dangerous for people. We have to hold onto the fence [that separates the path from a steep cliff], and there's lots of broken glass. It's no place for dogs to run. We take them there to do their business and then bring them to a far corner of the baseball diamond to run."

Also convenient to Noe Valley is the less perilous dog run next to the tennis courts in Dolores Park. A complete list of dog runs is available from the SPCA or the Recreation and Park Department. □



*Noe Valley's official dog run is located in the hilly terrain behind the baseball diamond at Upper Douglass Park. But most canines, including Elli (white dog leading the chase) and Wellington (black dog in pursuit), prefer to romp in the wide open spaces. PHOTO BY JOEL ABRAMSON.*

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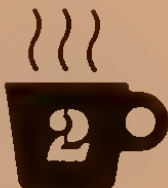
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**Stuttering:** When a child's speech seems interrupted by hesitations, repetitions or prolongations of sounds, syllables, words or phrases, a stuttering problem may be developing.

- If a child does not respond to sounds in the environment or to speech, his or her hearing should be checked by an audiologist. Undetected hearing loss can cause delays in language and speech development.

- If a child is not talking like other children the same age, he or she should be evaluated by a speech-language pathologist. If speech and language problems are not treated, the ability to communicate and to learn can be affected.

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## Noe's Homestays

*Continued from Page 1*

set up a futon in the hallway. Instead, they can recommend lodgings in a roomier house just up the street.

And for casual tourists, moving in with a Noe Valley family, for two days or two weeks, can prove to be just the authentic taste of San Francisco life they've been looking for.

About 125 homestays now exist in the city, and six or eight of them operate in or near Noe Valley. According to Jean Brown, director of Bed & Breakfast International, a reservation service based in Albany, most of these lodgings don't advertise. Guests find their way to them either by going through a reservation service, like Brown's, or through word of mouth.

Susan Halperin, who lives with her husband, two children, and two dogs on 29th Street near Noe, began letting a spare room about a year ago. Most of her guests have had friends or relatives in the neighborhood. "It's really nice," she said. "They use our room as a little way station. You meet people, and you earn some money, too."

The Halperins' spare room, built as a guest room in their garage two years ago, has two twin beds and a view of the garden. The modest, clean space has its own private bath. Nowadays, visitors from out of town, paying \$55 to \$65 a night, occupy it for one or two weekends a month.

Bargain prices are not necessarily the main attraction of homestays, which may charge anywhere from \$45 to \$150 a night. (The price of a motel room on Lombard Street is a comparable \$65 to \$100.) But for about the same money, the



Susan Halperin tidies up before the next round of visitors to her mini-bed-and-breakfast on 29th Street. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

homestay guest receives a full breakfast, plus the chance to discover a different, more intimate view of San Francisco.

"The neighborhood is where the real San Francisco is," says Richard Kreibich of American Family Inns. "Homestay hosts love to take guests into their homes and share the city with them. That's why they do it."

According to Richard's wife and partner, Susan, travelers frequently request lodgings in Noe Valley. "It's a good area for bed and breakfasts," she said. "There's always something going on—people getting married, babies being born."

Sheila Ash is another Noe Valley resident who enjoys giving home hospitality to San Francisco's visitors. She rents a room on the ground floor of her 23rd

Street home about 10 days out of every month, charging \$65 a day. If business picks up, she plans to increase occupancy to around 20 days a month.

Ash, a single parent who supplements her income by teaching French and Japanese and by providing children's day-care in her home, looks on homestay hosting as a chance to meet people from all over the world. About half her guests are foreigners, mostly from Europe.

"I think people like homestays because they can ask questions of someone who lives here, not just a busy hotel clerk," she said. "It's more like a home. And I enjoy the people I meet."

In addition to a cozy, antique-filled room, Ash offers her guests the use of a hot tub, complete with a newly built red-

wood gazebo, plus professional massages (the massages cost extra). She also provides daycare for guests with children.

Instead of serving breakfast, Ash keeps the room's kitchenette stocked with food.

Andy (who prefers not to give out his last name) recently began offering a second homestay space in his Castro Street Victorian perched on the north slope of Liberty Hill near 21st Street. He lives in the downstairs flat and now rents the two small, one-bedroom apartments upstairs for \$75 a night.

While Andy too loves providing hospitality and meeting visitors, he has come to rely on the income generated by his homestay guests. "Without that money, I would never be able to afford this building," he said.

Brown, at Bed & Breakfast International, confirms that many homestay hosts supplement their incomes by renting out rooms that would otherwise stand empty. This is especially true for retired people living on fixed incomes, she noted.

Is there a down side to the bed and breakfast business? Well, Andy recounts how one family made reservations, but, upon arriving, had reservations of another sort. "They just drove up, said it wasn't what they expected, and drove away." On the whole, however, such reactions appear to be few and far between. Most guests, and hosts, seem delighted with the whole set-up.

So with spring here and summer just around the corner, Noe Valley's homestay hosts are looking forward to a busy season. Reservations are fairly easy to make, and locals interested in finding out more can call Jean Brown's Bed & Breakfast International at 525-4569 or American Family Inns at 931-3083. Sheila Ash can be phoned directly at 821-0751. □

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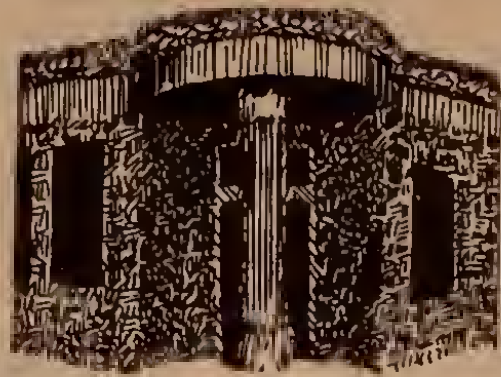
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## If it walks like a church, and talks like a church...

Continued from Page 1

yer. Smith agreed to submit an application for a conditional use permit which, if granted, would allow the church to perform the kitchen work as well as other long-term renovations to the 100-year-old building.

The application, filed by Smith on April 18, admits no wrongdoing and unabashedly lists the Ministry's hosting of "community meetings, children's programs, ministry with the arts, health programs, spiritual growth and recovery programs, [and] social education and action," as well as worship and seniors' activities.

It also specified that "the conditional use permit will not cause any major change in our use or programs" and that "the uses for which we are applying are ongoing." Among the specific programs not directly connected with the Presbyterian Church are the weekly Noe Valley Music Series, the Gallery Sanchez, Tradeswomen, Inc., and the Noe Valley Voice.

Outside the application process, Smith is adamant that "we cannot afford to allow anyone else to tell us how to be a church or how our mission should be run."

Since taking charge of the Ministry in 1977, he's implemented his belief that "the appropriate activity of the church is to be where God is. And if God is where people are doing creative things and meeting for the welfare and betterment of the neighborhood and for human exchange, for healing and growth (as many of the 12-step programs are) and many of your physical, body-work types of things, then those are appropriate places for a church to be involved."

Zoning Administrator Passmore feels that the violation should have been avoided and that the Ministry should have applied for a conditional use permit earlier, without coercion.

"I could technically send the thing over

to the city attorney's office," says Passmore, "but it's not the type of case that involves a loss of housing or parking, or a 'high nuisance.'"

So instead of enforcing the cease-and-desist order, he says he'll wait and offer his official opinion to the Planning Commission about whether the church's activities constitute "an appropriate use in the neighborhood." Softening his voice of authority, he adds, "I hope they [the Ministry's advocates] make their case."

Neighbors within 300 feet of the Ministry will receive official invitations to testify at the commission's public hearing, which is likely to take place at City Hall later this month. Passmore says the department has received a few complaints about traffic problems in the Ministry area, but nothing egregious.

Smith notes that the complaining neighbors on the south have moved and that complaints from a neighbor on the north about parking and fighting nuisances have been settled.

But Smith is gearing up for possible trouble. If the commission were to hear lots of objections, it could nix the church's application. In the worst case scenario, the city could close down many of the church's activities.

So Smith plans a pre-hearing "briefing" at the Ministry for all his supporters, among whom he hopes to count building users and neighbors as well as members of his congregation. Several members of the steering committee of the residents' group Friends of Noe Valley have already come forward on behalf of the Ministry. And other interested parties are urged to contact the church at 282-2317.

"The implications of this could affect every church in this city," warns the pastor. "If they were to push on this issue and tell us, 'We have a right to tell you you're not being a church,' then the issue would have to go all the way to the Supreme Court." □



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## Tarts, Tulips, Typing and Little Things

By Jane Underwood

Here's a roundup on some of the more recent commercial ventures in Down-town Noe Valley.

**Noe Valley Bakery**  
4073 24th St.  
550-1405

Bakeries may come and go, but in Noe Valley at least, they seem destined to remain in the same cozy storefront year after year.

The latest bake shop to pop up in the 24th Street slot next to the Wooden Heel shoe repair store is called, appropriately enough, the Noe Valley Bakery. It replaced Sweet Cakes bakery on March 1, which replaced Plate's Bakery two years prior to that. (Plate's, under one ownership or another, had been at this location since 1908.)

Noe Valley Bakery owner Egon Grundmann is no novice when it comes to the bakery business. He has run large bakeries in San Mateo and Burlingame

## STORETREK

for the past 20 years. But at age 46 he decided to search for "a smaller operation," and says he found just the site he wanted here in Noe Valley.

Although Grundmann and his wife, Carmen, live in Foster City, they are happy to be doing business in the neighborhood where Carmen and her family made a home after moving to the U.S. from Nicaragua when she was 12.

Grundmann and one other baker do most of the baking, but former Plate's owner Erich Eberle helps out one or two days a week. "I asked Erich to work with us," says Grundmann, "because a good full-line baker is hard to find."

The Noe Valley Bakery indeed offers its customers a complete assortment of traditional American and European breads, rolls, donuts, pies, cookies, pastries, and cakes for all occasions. The Italian St. Honoré cakes, says Grundmann, are especially yummy, and then, of course, there are the Italian rum cakes. . . .

Hours at the Noe Valley Bakery are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays.

**Little Things Mean a Lot!**  
1328 Castro St.  
282-5602

From glass, brass, and china to pottery vases and delicate laces, the gifts at Little Things Mean a Lot—handcrafted jewelry, candles, cards, stuffed animals, baskets, embroidery, and other potpourri—are a whimsical world unto themselves.

Housed on the first floor of the Castro Street Victorian where Carson & York once served goodies and coffees, Little Things is owned and operated by 30-year-old Vincent Barron. He opened the store—his first retail enterprise—last November.

"Business was slow at first," says Barron, who used to work as a card buyer and window designer for B. Dalton bookstores, "but it's starting to pick up at last. People know I'm here now, and I've got a neighborhood following of people who enjoy the store and come in regularly."

Barron carries some collectibles from the '30s and '40s, but mostly he sells "lots of handmade items from people in the neighborhood. Their stuff is beautiful, and they put their love into it," he says proudly.

A Noe Valley resident and craftsman himself, Barron makes Victorian Christmas ornaments as well as a variety of other handcrafted items. Beginning this month, he will be teaching crafts classes at the store in the evenings.

Little Things Mean a Lot is open Tuesday through Sunday, noon to 8 p.m.

**The French Tulip**  
3911 24th St.  
647-8661

According to proprietor Ryan Quinlan, the French Tulip is a "traditional European flower stand" (complete with colorful umbrella) offering such exotic fare as black tulips, red French "parrot" tulips, orchids from Thailand, and fragrant lavender sterling silver roses.

Quinlan, who instituted his sidewalk enterprise last November, started out small, with only a minimal selection of flowers placed tentatively on the steps of the building where he rents a small store-room (located near the Noe Valley Mall, between Noe and Sanchez streets). But the neighborhood responded with delight, he says, and his colorful flowers were soon cascading down the steps and well onto the sidewalk.

Although he does sell "your basic bunch of flowers," featuring mums, daisies, baby's breath, and carnations, 31-year-old Quinlan, who got his start as a flower vendor over on Union Street 2½ years ago, prefers to offer "the stemmed stuff" because, he says, "people like to make up their own bouquets."

Prices at the French Tulip range from \$1 to \$5.50 for bunched flowers, to \$1.50 per stem for black tulips, to \$2.50 a stem for the orchids. Stem flowers, however, are sometimes "cheaper by the dozen," says Quinlan. And, he adds, "There are prices on everything. You don't have to ask."

Hours vary according to the weather,

but in general Quinlan will be there on Wednesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and on Sundays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Seldner Secretarial Services**  
4077A 24th St.  
824-2720

An ex-legal secretary who struck out on her own 5½ years ago, Patti Seldner worked for three years out of her home. Then she ventured onto 24th Street, where she began sharing an office with Manuel Ovalle (who runs a tax service) at 4010 24th St. But after 2½ years, her secretarial and word-processing business got so busy that she decided to look for her own digs, and on March 1 she packed up her laser printer and moved across the street to her own little studio cottage.

Seldner serves a clientele that includes lots of home businesses as well as several 24th Street merchants. She or her new part-time assistant, Maggie Sullivan, will type anything from a one-page letter (\$6) to reams of complex legal documents (\$30 to \$35 per hour). And she guarantees perfectly proofed copy.

So far, says this savvy 32-year-old entrepreneur, the new arrangement is "working out wonderfully."

Seldner Secretarial Services is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. □



Vincent Barron's name for his Castro Street store—*Little Things Mean a Lot!*—says what he feels about his eclectic stock of collectibles and neighborhood-made crafts. PHOTO BY PAMELA GERARD



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# Cafe Babar: Alvin's Bohemian Hideaway on Guerrero Street

By Steve Steinberg

It's easy to miss Cafe Babar. In fact, if you're not looking for it carefully, you can drive by three or four times before you spot the palm tree logo on the front window or the picture of Bahar the elephant on the side window.

Cafe Bahar is the tiny hole in the wall, filled with bohemian charm, at the corner of 22nd and Guerrero streets (the main entrance is on Guerrero, but there's another unused door on 22nd).

It's one of those warm neighborhood haunts where everyone has known everyone else for years, and most have more or less grown old together. It's a place to listen to jazz, read your poetry, display your art, or play along with a jug hand.



Cafe Babar has been a quiet oasis in the Mission District for 13 years.  
PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

Babar achieved brief national prominence in the early 1980s as the founding site of the Dull Men's Club, a joking reaction to trendiness that, for a time, turned into a quasi-national organization.

But on a recent evening in March, the local folks just gathered to hear a little jazz from the Bob Dominquez Quartet. (Actually, it was a trio because the saxophone player was home sick.)

"I'd heard [Bahar] had some of the best jazz in the city," said Randy, who was visiting the cafe for only the second time. "I'd always driven past it."

Cafe Babar is nothing if not informal. Where else can you bring your own pizza into the cafe to eat while listening to music?

"People use this like their living

room," said one frequenter.

Another guest, a writing teacher named Cabala, was more specific. "It's like Alvin's living room," she said.

Alvin is Alvin Stillman, owner of, and largely the sole employee at, Cafe Bahar. He opened Bahar, along with a friend, back in 1976 after having moved to San Francisco from Detroit by way of Mexico. He decided to turn what had been a Central American pancake house into a cafe-bar he could feel comfortable in.

Cafe Babar is, of course, named for the beloved children's story character, Babar the elephant. The scene on Cafe Bahar's 22nd Street window depicts *Babar Learns to Cook*, one of the Babar books by Jean de Brunhoff and his son Laurent.

Alvin says he chose the name because it sounded exotic.

Now 54 and a new grandfather, Alvin comes across as a mischievous kid, only one who's a little bald and sports a giant walrus moustache. It's hard to pin him down on a lot of things, but he does say that the cafe has done what it was intended to do—make money and provide a social meeting place. "Numerous marriages came out of this joint," he says.

Joel, a frequent visitor who's been coming around for 10 years, says people can always expect to see someone they know. Nothing has changed, he emphasizes. "Even the plants in the window are the same." He calls the clientele a "very democratic crowd, without pretension."

Joel's wife, Dorothy, who's from France, agrees. She calls Babar unique. There's nothing like it in France, she says. "It belongs to nowhere. It is the place of Alvin."

Dorothy knew virtually no one when she first moved to San Francisco. But she subsequently met many of her closest friends within the narrow confines of Bahar.

Babar, notes Alvin, definitely represents a cross section of the neighborhood. At any time, he says, you might find doctors, poets, computer operators, musicians, *Time* magazine bureau chiefs, carpenters, *New Yorker* contributors, and cab drivers mingling at will.

While he's reluctant to sound snobbish, he does say that "the level of conversation is, well... the conversation is not going to be essentially about sports. This is not a sports bar. There's no TV." He quickly adds, however, "[Babar] is not an exclusive-anything."

Interestingly enough, the minuscule cafe, measuring 10 feet by 30 feet and seating about 25 people, has not always been a neighborhood bar. When it first opened, says Alvin, 80 percent of the



Mirrors give the illusion of roominess, but it's still a tight squeeze at the tiny Cafe Babar—the club measures only 10 by 30 feet. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

clientele did not live in the area. Now 80 percent do live within a few blocks.

That demographic shift had to do with Alvin's changing lifestyle. When he started Bahar, Alvin was more of a party animal, and the bar became an extension of his social circle. "You're at a party," he says, "and someone asks you what you do, and you say, 'I have a cafe,' and they show up." But, he concedes, "That's not how you do business."

Babar became more of a business venture when Alvin's social life changed. "We all got older. People become parents and don't hang around or go to parties."

Friends from the old days still drop by on occasion. "If they find a parking place, they stop," notes Alvin. "If they don't, they don't stop."

Cafe Babar was not Alvin's first bar. In the '60s he owned a place called Alvin's in Detroit, on the campus of Wayne State University. He sold out in the early 1970s to move to Mexico, but the bar is still in existence.

Unlike Cafe Babar, Alvin's was huge, having been converted from a former Studebaker auto showroom. Alvin chose the Bahar setting partially in reaction to the size of his previous establishment.

After the Central American pancake house had been gutted, Alvin built Cafe Babar from scratch. To create the right atmosphere, he consulted a Japanese interior designer friend named Bob Hanamura back in Detroit.

The two communicated plans by phone and letter, so that Bahar was essentially designed long distance. In fact, Hanamura, who now lives in San Francisco, never saw Bahar until six months after it had opened.

The decor in Cafe Babar is a blend of Japanese motifs, art deco, and art nouveau. "We improvised with the budget we had," said Alvin. Table tops were taken from a cut-up bowling alley, and

room-length mirrors added a slightly more spacious feeling.

Alvin considers the cafe to have a very Japanese flavor. He maintains that there are thousands of similar tiny cafes in Japan, although he has never been there. He feels Babar is the type of cafe that thrives best in an intensely developed urban area. He also says it is "a little bit of North Beach. [And] a little bit of North Beach is a little bit of Europe."

Right now Cafe Babar tries to offer a little bit of everything.

On Wednesday nights, you can always listen to a jazz group. Thursday nights feature poetry readings in the cafe's seldom used side room. Open readings are the rule, and Alvin says there are very few spectators. These are the same poetry readings, by the way, that used to be held at the Spaghetti Factory in North Beach before it folded, and at the Meat Market Coffeehouse on 24th Street before it closed down for a year.

Finally, on Saturday nights, you can join in with the jug hand. What's a jug band? Well, it's a mix of folk and rag-tag, where folks play on jugs, spoons, saws, and maybe even on a few regular instruments.

Cafe Babar serves a variety of spirits, as well as non-alcoholic beverages. The cafe used to serve food, "but not anymore, although sometimes we still do, but then again, only in limited quantities," says Alvin in his inimical fashion.

You can visit Cafe Babar, and perhaps become a regular, any Monday through Saturday, from 4 p.m. until midnight. See you there. □



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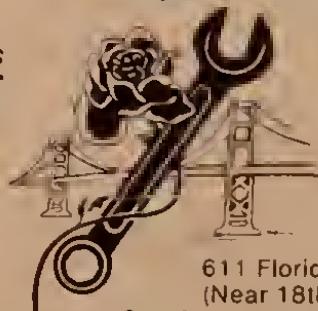
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## Holocaust Poetry

On Sunday, May 21, several local poets will gather at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., for a book party and reading celebrating the publication of *Ghosts of the Holocaust*, an anthology of poetry by children of World War II holocaust survivors.

Edited by Glen Park resident Stewart

## P O E M

### PHOTOGRAPH OF SURVIVORS

By Gail Newman

It doesn't look like him.  
Doesn't look like my father.  
His hair is thick and there is  
a softness around the mouth  
as if all his life has been gathering  
up into this moment in which he sits

next to my mother, shirt open at the collar,  
fingers pressed into her palm.

but she is gazing into the future  
or into the past, eyes filmy  
as a pond under algae, her lips

just slightly turned up. This is  
as far as she can bring herself, for his sake,  
quietly fighting to stay alive.

Reprinted by permission of Wayne State  
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Gail Newman and other neighborhood poets  
will be reading selections from a newly  
published anthology, *Ghosts of the  
Holocaust*, at a book party May 21 at the  
Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

## SHORT TAKES

Florsheim, *Ghosts*, which features the work of 51 "second-generation" poets from around the world, was released on April 10, just in time for Yom Hashoah, the international holocaust remembrance day.

Readers will include San Francisco poets Susan Damiroff, Morrie Warshawski, and Gail Newman (see poem, this page).

The event, a benefit for Amnesty International, Group 80, will begin at 7:30 p.m. All other proceeds from the book will go to Amnesty International and the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews. Call 441-3733 or 821-9782 for more information.

### Hospice Hosts Auction

Maitri Hospice, a residential care facility in the Castro District for homeless and financially-strapped people with AIDS/ARC, is hosting an auction and dance May 6 at Fort Mason.

Dinners at Greens and the Atrium, two nights at Tassajara Hot Springs resort, and a cruise for two on the bay will be among the hundreds of prizes, art objects, and personal services to be placed on the auction block—and all proceeds will go to benefit the hospice.

Founded by Zen priest Issan Dorsey and the Hartford Street Zen Center in 1987, Maitri (which means "the joys of true friendship" in Sanskrit) is a small hospice located at 57-61 Hartford St. It is dedicated to providing "a homey, non-bureaucratic residence" that offers residents a full range of home health care services.

The event, which begins at 7 p.m. in Building A of the Fort Mason Conference Center, is part of a campaign to raise \$120,000 for building renovations and operating expenses at Maitri. Call 861-6779 for further information.

### Kids Impressionism

Last spring's kids art show put on by the Noe Valley Co-op Nursery School won rave reviews, so the school has decided to establish a yearly tradition. The co-op will host its Second Annual Children's Art Show on Saturday, May 13, from 2 to 5 p.m.

Featured will be a wide array of paintings, collages and sculptural works in tempera, watercolor, and cardboard. Guests will be treated to chamber music by a local string quartet, and wine and cheese will be served.

All proceeds will go to support this parent participation preschool for children 2½ to 5 years old.

### You Belong in a Zoo

The San Francisco Zoological Society needs volunteers to work with animals in the Children's Zoo this summer. Under staff supervision, helpers, who must be at least 16 years old and able to work one full weekday per week, will assist with diet preparation, feeding, grooming, and monitoring animals in the barnyard area.

An orientation session will be held on Sunday, May 7, at 10 a.m. Animal lovers can meet at the Sloat Boulevard entrance to the zoo (near Ocean Beach).

For more details about working in the Children's Zoo, call the volunteer coordinator at 661-7104.

### B.A. in Social Change

Anyone who admired Abbie Hoffman's flair for making dramatic political statements may want to look into a new B.A. program, starting next fall at New Col-

lege of California (which has campuses at 50 Fell St. and 777 Valencia St.)

Titled "Theatre, Performance, and Social Change," the program will address the needs of Bay Area progressive theater workers, cultural activists, and political activists who want to incorporate theater/performance into their work. Classes like "Organizing in the '90s" and "Media and Political Performance" will help students "create new strategies for cultural activism in the Next Millennium." Call New College at 626-1694 to sign up for the \$5,000, two-semester program.

### Girls Chorus Auditions

Twenty-one musical girls from Noe Valley will join a couple hundred of their colleagues when the San Francisco Girls Chorus presents its "Teddy Bear's Picnic" children's festival at the Gould Theater of the Palace of the Legion of Honor at 8 p.m. on May 13.

The program includes music for kids by Britten, Brahms, Mozart, Wilder, and Rodgers, as well as stories and poems.

And for those who'd like to join future programs, auditions will be held May 20 at the First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St. They're open to all girls ages 7 through 12, regardless of musical training. To learn more about the chorus, which records and tours around the world, call 673-1511.

### Self-Help Comedy

Child abuse is no laughing matter, but a host of top comedians, including screen star Gregory Hines, will gather at the Palace of Fine Arts on May 6 to help prevent it. The second annual "Comics for Kids" benefits the Children's Self-Help Project, which educates kids to reduce their vulnerability.

Among the funny fundraisers will be

Continued on Page 11

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Continued from Page 10

Noe Valley's own Sue Murphy, who finished sixth in last year's Stand-Up Comedy Competition and appears this month on PBS's "Comedy Tonight." Murphy will join Will Durst, Ian Shoales, Doug Ferrari, Marga Gomez, Jim Samuels, Rey Booker, and others.

The show (which organizers say is not suitable for children) begins at 8 p.m., and information is available from the project office, 552-8304. For tickets, call 392-SHOW.

### Grants From Friends

Attention, local non-profit organizations. The Friends of Noe Valley Treasury is brimming over—with \$2,000 in grant monies. Neighborhood groups or individuals who can demonstrate that their project is of immediate benefit to the Noe Valley community are urged to apply.

Past grants have been awarded to local

schools, seniors programs, ecology organizations, and performing arts groups.

Proposals should include a one- or two-page description of the organization and its history of serving Noe Valley residents, along with a statement of objectives and a brief overview of staffing and budget plans.

The number of awards (and their amounts) will depend upon the number and nature of proposals accepted.

Send all applications by May 31 to Mary Ann Malinak-Magnus, Friends of Noe Valley Grants Program, 4341 Army St., San Francisco, CA 94131. For more information, call 285-3532.

### Peanuts! Cracker Jacks!

The circus is coming to town. On Memorial Day weekend, May 27-29, San Francisco's own Pickle Family Circus celebrates its 15th anniversary with three days of performances at Glen Park



Jean-Luc Martin will support Rosalinda Rojas when the Pickle Family Circus celebrates its 15th anniversary at Glen Park May 27-29. PHOTO BY ALLEN NOMURA

(Elk, Chenery, and Bosworth streets).

The European-style outdoor show, staged twice daily at noon and 3:30 p.m., will feature a motley collection of clowns, tumblers, aerialists, and jugglers—all performing to the music of the Pickles' live jazz band.

The event is sponsored by the San Francisco Council of Parent Participation Nursery Schools, an umbrella organization for most of the cooperative nursery schools in San Francisco. Since 1977, these schools have joined together to create a circus midway that offers an old-fashioned array of food, games, and raffles — featuring many handcrafted quilts. Sales from midway booths will benefit the schools.

Discount tickets (\$7 for adults and \$4 for seniors and children under 12) will be available in advance through the Noe Valley Nursery School, 647-2278 (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.), or from your local cooperative nursery school. Call 285-3096 for a complete rundown.

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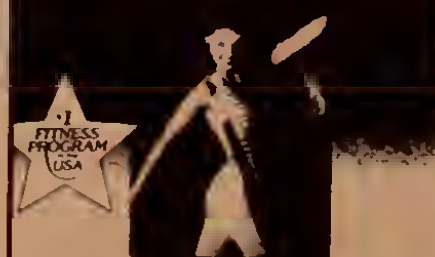
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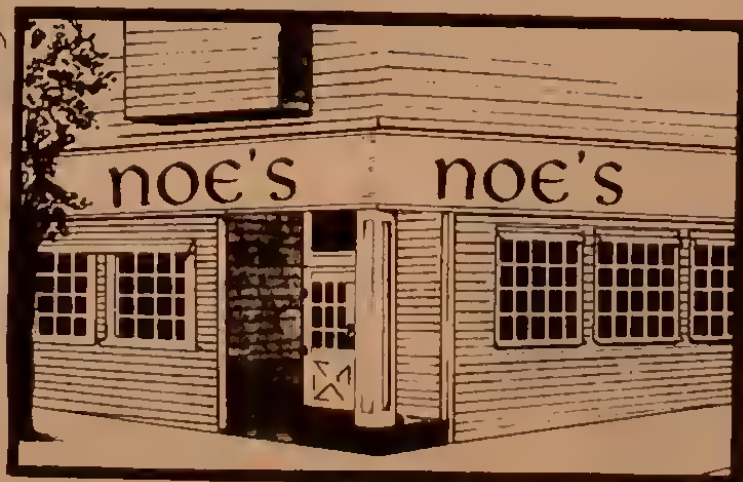
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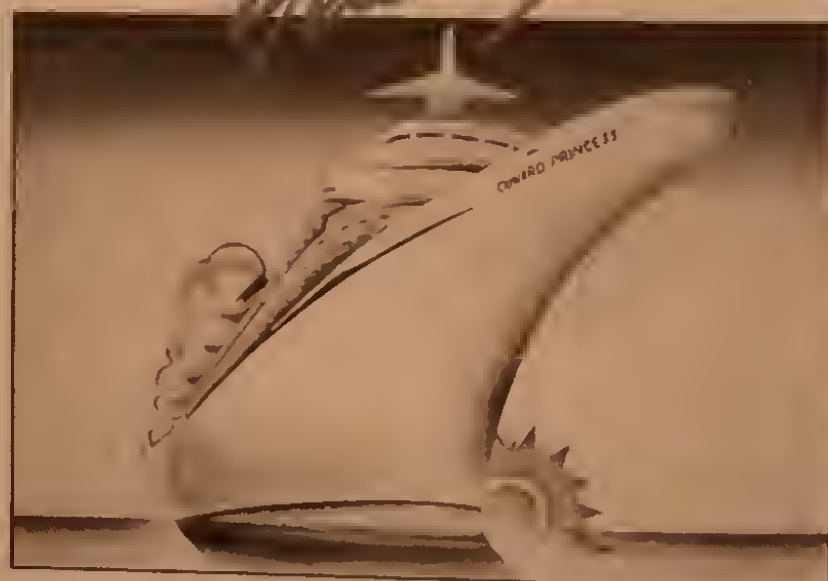
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# A Cornucopia of Carnivals at the Other End of 24th Street

By Jeff Kaliss

The inner Mission District is sometimes referred to as the city's warm belt. Within the next couple of months, that appellation might refer to things cultural as well as climatic.

It starts this weekend, May 6 and 7, with the 23rd annual Cinco de Mayo Celebration, centered at Potrero del Sol/Raza Park, off Potrero Avenue near 25th Street. Jazzman Pete Escovedo and daughter Sheila E. will serve as grand marshals of the parade, which kicks off at 11 a.m. on Saturday at 20th and Mission and proceeds down 24th Street to Raza Park.

At the park—in addition to the traditional hoots, vendors, and musical acts—the celebration will serve up a first-ever children's mini-festival, featuring clowns, magicians, dancers, mimes, sing-alongs, games, and a petting zoo. And on Sunday, the winners of a rapping contest for high-schoolers will perform their prize incantations.

For more specific information, phone the Mission Economic and Cultural Association (MECA), which sponsors the celebration, at 826-1401.

At the tail end of the month, MECA



In preparation for this month's Carnival parade, Jorge Duarte (first row, far left) and the Noe Valley Community Samba group rehearsed at the International Student Center. On May 28 they'll be dancing on and around a spectacular fleet of floats. PHOTO BY PAMELA GERARD

unleashes the giant Street Carnival. Modeled after the riotous event held annually in Rio de Janeiro, the Mission extravaganza will for the first time in its history last for three days, May 26 to 28.

On Friday, May 26, a photo and memorabilia exhibit at the Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission St., will celebrate the San Francisco Carnival's evolution, beginning with its humble origins in Precita Park 10 years ago. A Carnival hall Friday evening at Cesar's Latin Palace, 3140 Mission St., will feature Brazilian Beat and the Escola Nova de Samba, showcasing the sexy and fascinating rhythms and dances of Brazil.

The Carnival beat continues on into the afternoons of Saturday and Sunday, May 27 and 28, with a festival street

party along Harrison Street between 16th and 21st. While perusing and purchasing the ethnic arts, crafts, heverages and food, revelers will be entertained by a variety of hot acts including Willie Colon, Queen Ida and her Bon Temps Zydeco Band, and Steel Pan Arts of Oakland, as well as comedy, rap, ethnic dancing, and more Brasiliana.

Carnival's three-hour grand parade through the Mission on Sunday, starting at 11 a.m., will include an appearance by 80 kids from Buena Vista School, costumed in Afro-Cuban outfits as they dance and sing in Spanish.

There'll also be a multi-float presentation by Noe Valley Community Samba on the theme of "Amazonia Preciosa."

"It's a chance to speak out about deforestation and the killing of Indians," says Jorge Duarte, who founded the group three years ago at the Noe Valley Community Store, where he works.

"I went to the Carnival in Rio last year just to learn about how they construct floats and make costumes," he added.

Duarte's 60 musicians and dancers have been rehearsing weekly and are still seeking donations of labor and money from neighborhood fans and businesses. Duarte can be contacted at the Community Store at 824-8022 or at home at 550-0464.

"The Mission Is Bitchin'" is the appropriate theme of Intersection for the Arts' annual multimedia festival, this year occurring on the evenings of June 1, 2 and 3 at 766 Valencia St.

Included is an installation, "Sheltering the Flame—Growing Up in the Mission," created by Mission District artists of various ages and ethnic backgrounds. In addition to other works by neighborhood visual artists, Intersection will feature comedy by Richard Loranger, dance by the High Risk Group and Johanna Haggood, and other performances. For a full schedule, call 626-ARTS.

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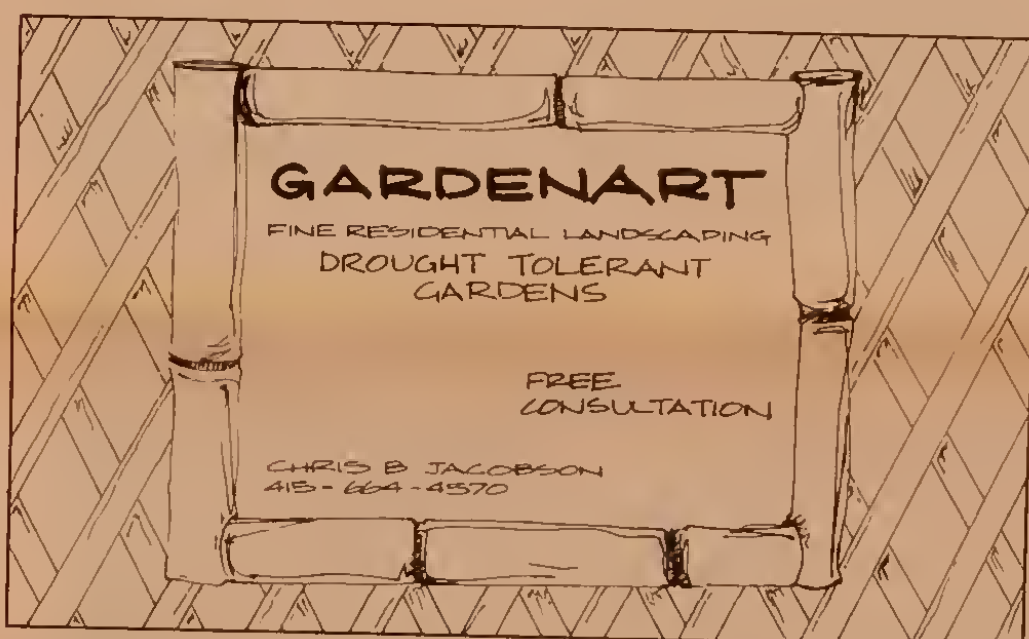
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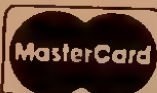
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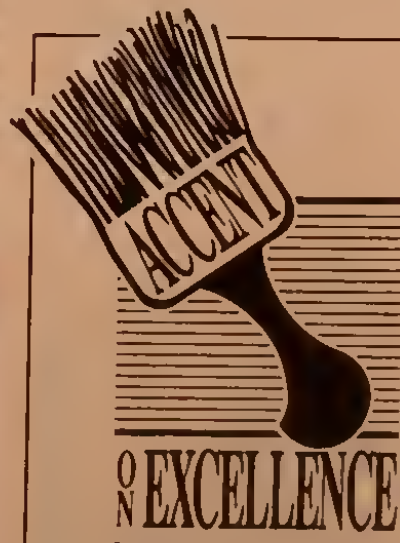
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The solid brick edifice at left represents the middle stage of Fairmount School's evolution. Erected on Chenery Street in 1917, it replaced a wooden Victorian schoolhouse. In 1978, the brick building was itself replaced by the modern structure, shown above.

OLD PHOTO COURTESY SFUSD TEACHERS LIBRARY NEW PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

## Remembrance of Schools Past

By Larry Beresford

San Francisco's public school system was born in 1851 with the passage of the city's first ordinance establishing a free common school, called Rincon School and located in a small rented house at the corner of First and Folsom streets.

From those humble beginnings—through the city's explosive growth, disasters like the great earthquake and fire of 1906, and various fiscal crises—San Francisco's school buildings have come to epitomize public architecture in a city celebrated for its architecture.

"San Francisco became nationally known for the quality of its school buildings. They were a source of pride to the city and the neighborhoods they graced," Don Andreini writes in the September 1988 newsletter of the Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage.

For many Valley old-timers, our venerable local school buildings provide a connection to the city of their youth. However, these durable mementos of the past have changed greatly over the years.

The stately wooden Victorian school buildings of the 19th century have all been replaced, and several newer buildings have been stripped of their ornamentation—a process accelerated by the 1906 earthquake and fire and by subsequent seismic fears.

## LANDMARKS of Noe Valley

"A city which had suffered a conflagration such as that of 1906 might have thought it wise to replace those fine old wood-frame Victorian schoolhouses," suggests Andreini.

Take, for example, Fairmount School. Today's low, angular, balcony-rimmed white school at the corner of Chenery and Randall streets is already the fourth school building on that site. The first Fairmount School, and perhaps the earliest school building in then-pastoral Noe Valley, was a one-story wooden structure erected in 1865 at a cost of \$2,700.

A more ambitious, two-story Victorian was built 12 years later, at a cost of \$14,467, with additions in 1891 and 1893. By 1908 Fairmount Principal Clara M. Johnson presided over 17 salaried teachers covering grades one through eight. That building was replaced in 1917 by a \$58,424 two-story brick-veneer structure of 24 classrooms, standing flush with the Chenery Street sidewalk.

We were unable to reproduce it here, but a photograph taken in 1917, stored in the San Francisco Unified School District's Teachers Library, shows a foundation half dug for the new brick building, with its Italianate predecessor set well off the street in what today is the school playground. Bernal Heights looms in the distance, almost as fully developed as

it is today. This third version of Fairmount School was eventually torn down to make way for the current school, completed in 1978.

Another early neighborhood school, Edison Elementary, was actually moved two blocks in the 1920s, from an original three-story wood-frame building at Church and Hill streets to the current concrete and plaster version on 22nd Street between Dolores and Chattanooga.

The first Edison, named for Thomas Alva the inventor, was built in 1890 at a cost of \$27,936. In 1908 Edison's principal, Miss J. Saunders, with a staff of 11, taught grades one through five. The replacement building in 1927 cost 13 times as much as the original and was designed by San Francisco architect George Applegarth—better known for his designs of the Palace of the Legion of Honor and the Spreckels Mansion on Washington Street.

The neighborhood also has enjoyed at least two public schools named after Noe Valley. According to school district records, as late as 1897 two primary school classes were located in a building rented for \$15 a month at the corner of Noe and Jersey streets. And around 1901 Noe Valley School was built for \$30,000 on Douglass Street between Elizabeth and 24th Street.

Originally an elementary school and



As it was created in 1926, Alvarado School opened onto Douglass Street with an ornate Romanesque portico (see above). To protect its users from earthquake fallout, the school district later had the building stripped and simplified (below). OLD PHOTO COURTESY SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY NEW PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD



later a junior high, this wood-frame building was joined by a corrugated iron shop building in 1926. Both were demolished in 1932, and the lot was transferred to the city's Park and Recreation Commission to create the current playground and park (Noe Courts).

Other early elementary schools included Douglas School at 19th and Collingwood streets, Agassiz School, built behind the original Horace Mann Intermediate School on Valencia between 22nd and 23rd streets, and Kate Kennedy School, today called Buena Vista Alternative Elementary School.

Continued on Page 15



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# LANDMARKS

Continued from Page 14

The original Douglas School—named for Abraham Lincoln's early political foe Stephen Douglas, not for Frederick Douglass or Douglass Street—was a two-story wooden building erected in 1895 and torn down in 1952 to make way for the current Douglas School.

Agassiz School, named for Louis Agassiz, the Swiss naturalist, was a rustic wood-frame building dating from 1892 and demolished in 1937, long after Horace Mann Junior High had moved to its current location a block south on Valencia Street.

Kate Kennedy School was built in 1911 at a cost of \$100,800 on Noe Street between Day and 30th. Originally called Clement Primary School and opened in March of 1911, it was renamed Kate Kennedy School that November, in honor of the first woman grade-school principal in the San Francisco school system.

Kate Kennedy was born in County Meath, Ireland, in 1829, and moved to New York in 1849, in the midst of the great Irish famine and migration. Seven years later she arrived in San Francisco and shortly after that took her first teaching appointment for the city. Dismissed from her job without cause in 1887, Kennedy sued for reinstatement, and her case resulted in a famous California Supreme Court decision, affirming the rights of people who are unfairly fired.

Twenty years after her death, tempers had cooled enough for the school district to respond favorably to a request by North Beach residents that a school be named in Kennedy's honor. Since no sites were available in that neighborhood, the district chose the new school building in Noe Valley.

Kate Kennedy School later shared the fate of another neighborhood primary school, Alvarado—located at 625 Douglass near 22nd Street and named for an early Mexican governor of California, Juan Bautista Alvarado. Alvarado School was built from reinforced concrete, plaster, cast stone and terra cotta trim in 1926. As the photograph on page 14 shows, the original detailing on the corners of Alvarado School, and especially over the main entrance, was quite ornate and beautiful. Kate Kennedy, although a more squat and fortress-like structure, was also enhanced with trim and a balustrade around the top.

But the architectural decorations of these buildings were indirect victims of the state's earthquake history. San Francisco's 1906 quake (which destroyed 29 public school buildings), another major earthquake in Long Beach, Calif., in the 1930s, and growing safety concerns led to state legislation mandating seismic safety standards for all public schools. As a result, Alvarado and Kennedy schools were stripped of all ornamentation in the 1970s, leaving the plain rectangular boxes we have today.

"Among the sadder environmental crimes commonly committed by architects these days has been the wholesale destruction of schools in the name of earthquake pro-



Kate Kennedy School, built at Noe and 30th streets in 1911, was named for the city's first female grade-school principal. The original ornamentation (see above) was removed in the '70s to comply with seismic safety standards. The present building (below), housing Burna Vista School, has gained a play structure but lost some of its charm. OLD PHOTO COURTESY SFUSD TEACHERS LIBRARY NEW PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD



tection," writes Allan Temko in the March 6, 1978 *San Francisco Chronicle*.

"This is not to say that there hasn't been a real problem of safety in older school buildings. But surely it could have been solved less brutally—one is tempted to say, fatally."

Andreini suggests, however, that the

public furor over the stripping of Alvarado School may have led to the more historically sensitive seismic reinforcement of Mission High School—an outstanding Mission revival building designed by city architect John Reid Jr. and erected in 1926. An \$8 million face-lift of Mission High between 1973 and 1977

literally took the school apart, then put it back together again, leaving the original design virtually unchanged.

In next month's "Landmarks" column, I'll take a look at Mission High and other secondary schools erected during the Golden Age of San Francisco school building. □

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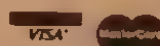
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## Mother Love

Text and Illustrations by Florence Holub

This month on the 14th of May we again celebrate Mother's Day. We all know that mother love is, at its best, the most unselfish and yet the most vital ingredient nourishing a young life. I remember my gentle mother—her quiet, watchful attention, her patience, and her wonderful sense of humor.

One particularly memorable incident involving my mother occurred after a shopping expedition back in the mid-1920s. My little brother wanted something beyond our means, and she had told him he couldn't have it—for just that good reason.

Warde was usually a good-natured little kid, but on this day, because of the shopping disappointment, he decided to become a completely obnoxious 4-year-old. He refused to come in the house, and to be sure we were aware of his unhappy state, he stood close to the back door, bawling loudly.

When my mother approached to reason with him, he ran crying to the front door. When she went to the front door, he headed noisily for the back door. Then he began to stroll up the street, crying loudly so that everyone in sparsely populated Noe Valley could hear.

My mother realized that the logical approach simply wasn't working, so with a mischievous smile that seemed to say I'll fix him, she headed for the closet. And although women did not wear pants at that time, she pulled out my father's trousers, stepped into them, and tucked her full skirt inside (which added a rotund bulkiness to her hips).

Next she covered her blouse with a big sweater and her head with a man's cap, pushing all her hair, including the large bun, up under the band (which gave her head a flat, lumpy look and emphasized her long, slender neck).

Then she slipped out of the house as my older brother and I, chuckling and enjoying the fun, watched from the window. When Warde finally looked back, he was startled to see this peculiar figure trailing him. He glanced back a few times, each time increasing his speed. But every time he

went faster, our mother, who was not close enough to be recognizable, kept pace.

His uneasiness soon changed to alarm, and he sprang into action, racing around the corner of the neighbors' houses, around the back yards, and back down the trail leading to our house.

My mother had returned home, shed her disguise, and sat awaiting the return of the little rebel as he hurt into the room and safety, panting and exclaiming, "Mama, Mama, there's a funny-looking man after me!"

He was now so docile that any punishment seemed unwarranted, and, besides, my mother was too busy stifling her laughter.

I don't remember that little boy ever misbehaving again, but I do remember him saying, "When you're bad, there's a funny-looking man..."

One should never underestimate the effectiveness of creative innovation in child-rearing.

But it is not always that easy. As a profession, motherhood usually consists of on-the-job training without supervisory direction. Remuneration is usually on a sliding scale attached to that of the father's position, or lack of, so the financial rewards are not all that enticing. And what other occupation demands such broad, undefined duties—24 hours a day, 364 days of the year, without sick leave or vacation?

The job, however, does not wait for seekers. Many women would settle happily into it for life, as did my mother. She was an admirable parent who provided us with stability and unwavering devotion, in the unstable world of the '20s and '30s.

Unfortunately she did not live to see her family grown up, because she died young, of cancer, when she was only 43 years old. My brothers and I were thoughtless teenagers at the time, and, naturally, we have many regrets. But I think she knew that it is only in the bearing and the rearing of our own families that we can fully appreciate the mother. And ultimately, the only way to repay all of the love and understanding is by passing these gifts on to our own in turn. □

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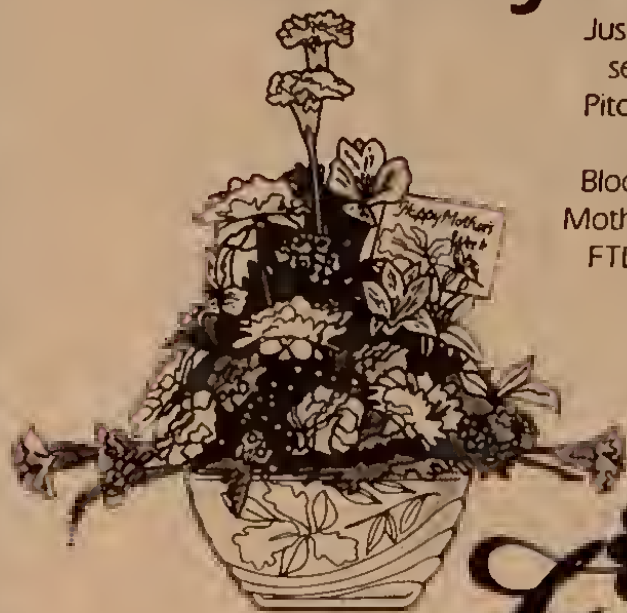
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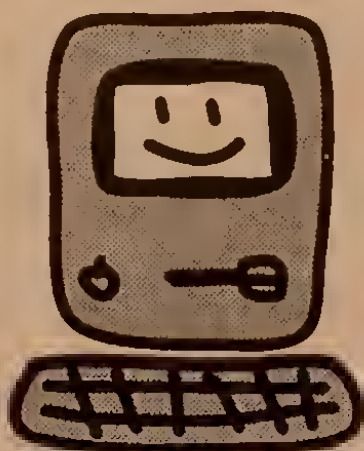
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**SATANIC VALLEY VERSES:** Some enemies of the Friends of Noe Valley created quite a stir in the neighborhood last month by sending a series of unsigned letters to select Friends and neighbors blasting the local community group in very nasty language.

One of these computer-generated flyers went out under the heading "Attention, Noe Valley Seniors," warning them that "the so-called Friends of Noe Valley want to take your home away from you." It also claimed that the Friends' meddling in neighborhood planning affairs was going to force seniors to sell their property and move to the Tenderloin.

Other broadsides were headlined "There's Something Rotten in Noe Valley," "Big Brother Is Here," and even "The Noes Valley Voice."

## and now **RUMORS** behind the news for the **BY MAZOOK**

In the last one, a fictional reporter, "Holly Vishnu Siva Total Eclipseperson," stated that a particular FNV member (who shall remain nameless here) was leaving for Iran to become the Minister of Justice because "fanaticism and persecuting non-believers are things [she] can easily relate to."

There were also some not-so-funny phone calls made to a couple members of the Friends' planning committee by people who refused to identify themselves.

Friends of Noe Valley understandably wants to maintain a low profile and not

dignify these hate sheets with a reply. But in an item in the group's April newsletter titled "Neighborhood Harassment on Rise," the Friends took the position that this ugly neighborhood papering "represents a systematic effort to defame and harass" the citizens who speak on behalf of residents' groups before city agencies.

Despite the scurrilous hate mail, the Friends' 10-member planning committee will remain vigilant in its light to preserve neighborhood housing. According to committee chair John Stalp, the group will continue to monitor any demolitions or new construction in the neighborhood, and be on the lookout for illegal commercial uses in Downtown Noe Valley, particularly those that have displaced residential units.

Meanwhile, the Friends of Noe Valley membership has swelled, says membership chairperson Miriam Blaustein. It is currently at 377 and guided by a steering committee of 14.

By the way, those of you who are members (annual dues are \$7) but who are not

presidential contender Gonni Sanchez De Lozada. Sanchez is running against retired Bolivian general (and rumored to be all-around bad guy) Hugo Banzer. If Banzer wins—the election is May 7—you can bet Enrique will be on the next plane out of La Paz.

Those of you trying to get out of Noe Valley via the San Jose Avenue route (to Highway 280) will be pleased to hear that the detours and traffic snarls caused by the torn-up roadway will persist for some time to come. The current construction is the beginning of the J-Church rail extension, which will take Muni riders out to Geneva Boulevard and eventually to Stonestown.

Speaking of demolitions, the rumor on 24th Street is that the old Philosophers Stone building will be crushed by the wrecker's ball as soon as possible if the new owner has his way.



**MORE POOP ON PIGEONS:** The "Pigeon Lady" of Sanchez Street, who for the past two years has routinely scattered seed in the neighborhood for her many feathered friends (see April 1988 *Voice*), was severely reprimanded by the city Health Department at a nuisance hearing March 28.

Sylvia Powell, co-owner of Homes of Charm on Church Street, reports that she



receiving your newsletter should contact Miriam at 648-0992. You can also leave a message on the FNV answering machine: 285-3532. As you can see, the FNV newsletter is a hot item these days. (So is Miriam's telephone number.)



**STORED DREK:** I recently wrote here that Bolivian Imports was going out of business. Obviously the store is still going strong on Castro at 24th Street.

"We were going to quit and move back to La Paz, [Bolivia], where my husband is now working on the presidential campaign," says owner Frances Payne. "But the landlord gave us a new five-year lease, and business has picked up on the corner considerably in the past few months."

Those of you familiar with Bolivian politics might be interested to know that Frances' husband, Enrique Bachinello (who is a former Bolivian state senator), is working for the challenger and leading

and a number of other aggravated Noe Valley residents attended the hearing, armed with photos of hundreds of pigeons sitting on the wires above Sanchez Street waiting for mealtime.

They identified Anna Muru, of 1329 Sanchez St., as the person responsible for a "huge" influx of pigeons into suburban Noe Valley. Naturally, the birds can't resist sliming our house roofs, cars and sidewalks.

Muru, who appeared at the hearing, was ordered to immediately stop her twice-daily habit or face citation and possible arrest. She was advised by health inspector George Bush (yes, you read it right) that feeding pigeons on the streets of San Francisco is illegal and that she must restrict her philanthropy to the city's nine specially designated feeding areas, including Buena Vista Park, McLaren Park, the J.D. Randall Museum,

*Continued on Page 22*



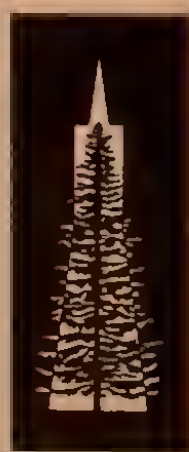
### Buryn's Eye View

It's spring in Noe Valley, so these youngsters found the perfect place to share secrets—under a canopy of trees near the corner of Diamond and 23rd streets. PHOTO BY ED BURYN



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## and now for the RUMORS behind the news

Continued from Page 21

and Golden Gate Park.

The *Voice* wrote Murn a note, asking for her side of the story, but she failed to respond.

☎ ☎ ☎

CONGRATULATIONS are in order for 20th Street resident Robert Warren Cromey, rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, who recently won the Dorothy Langston Human Rights Award at the annual San Francisco Cable Car Awards ceremony. Father Cromey got the award in recognition of his 25 years of support for gay/lesbian rights. Over the decades, he has given his blessing to same-gender marriages, domestic partners legislation, and the right of homosexuals to be ordained in the Episcopal Church.

Also, congratulations to Buena Vista Elementary School (Noe and 30th) for hosting a 20-member good will delegation from the Soviet Union on April 10. The school reports there was a wonderful exchange of greetings and music, featuring a Russian singer, balalaika player, and sounds imitator.

There was also an incredibly moving performance at Latvian Hall on Hoffman Avenue April 16 by Dzintars, an 80-member women's chorus touring the U.S. from, you got it, Latvia, U.S.S.R. It was the first time in ages that many expatriated Latvians had heard the bittersweet harmonies of their native land, and many tears were shed.

This year's best Passover seder award goes to Rami's cafe. The Church Street eatery put out a meal to remember for more than 50 people April 20. There was even a table in the center for all the kids to sit at...and pass the matzos, please.

☎ ☎ ☎

IT'S ANSWER TIME. For all of you anxiously awaiting the winner in last



What's the oldest house in Noe Valley? As far as we can determine, the correct answer is this place—a homestead that was originally built on what is now Church Street. The house was later moved to its present location at 3780 23rd St. to make way for the J-line.

month's Noe Valley Quiz, I'm sorry to say that nobody was able to answer all questions correctly. As a matter of fact, nobody entered the contest. No winner...no prize (which my publisher just informed me was an all-expenses paid, two-week vacation in Molokai, Hawaii).

Despite your apparent lack of interest, here are the answers:

1. How far do Twin Peaks rise above sea level? The north peak is 910 feet and the south peak 903.

2. Who was Joseph Comerford? He was the early Noe Valley developer who built many single-family dwellings in Horner's Addition in the 1880s and '90s. The 285-foot alley that runs from Church to Sanchez between 27th and Duncan is named after him.

3. Where in Downtown Noe Valley was the South Philly Cheesesteak Company located, and who was its owner? Helga D'Arcy owned this restaurant at 4042 24th St. (where Cybelle's Pizza is now).

4. Who was Little Italy's first chef? That would be Jack Kreitzman, current owner of the hot eating spot called

Jackson Fillmore. Jack and partner Mel Lefer opened Little Italy in 1979.

5. Where and when did Nobel Prize-winner Mother Teresa set up a Noe Valley branch of her Missionaries of Charity? The Sisters have been living and working in St. Paul's old convent at 312 29th St. since 1982.

6. There was once a goldfish pond in the parking lot of Dan's Gas, true or false? True, but the pond existed back in the old days when the place was called McCarthy's Shell Station. We heard from Jim Cannon, who was born and raised in the house to the east of Dan's lot. A 1957 Mission High graduate, Jim remembers that "old man McCarthy kept large goldfish in a round cement pond that was raised off the ground right next to our lightwell."

7. What are the annual dues of the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club? \$4.20 a year, a bargain at twice the price.

8. Where is the oldest house in Noe Valley? Built in 1869, it is now located at 3780 23rd St. The house was originally erected in the area of present-day Church

Street, but was moved a short distance down the hill in 1900 when Church Street was being graded.

9. What will be moving into the space formerly occupied by Castro Pharmacy? If you know the answer to this one, then contact Max Selva, the 24th Street realtor who is trying to find a tenant for the owner. One rumor that's been floating around is that a greeting card chain is interested in the spot (not the chain that first came into your mind, however).

10. What was the name of the first car built in California, and where and when was it built? The "Pioneer" was built in 1896 right here in Noe Valley in the garage behind the storefront at 4175 24th St. by J. A. Meyer. Meyer had a car repair shop at that location until around 1932.

☎ ☎ ☎

THE MAYDAY RIDDLE: What, if anything, did President George Bush do in the first 100 days of his administration? Answer: Install a horseshoe pit on the White House grounds. That's leadership, folks...and that's 30 from here. Bye, kids. □



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If you hightail it over to the Noe Valley Library at 451 Jersey St., you just might find *Missing Time* or get *Tangled Up in Blue*, two of the big attractions on this month's reading list provided by librarians Roberta Greifer and Debby Jeffery.

The library is open Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1 to 9 p.m.; and Thursday through Saturday, 1 to 6 p.m. Phone: 285-2788.

#### Adult Fiction

A highly acclaimed first novel, *The Book of Ruth* by Jane Hamilton is a first-person account of a small-town "loser" and her description of life and relationships in her "ordinary" world.

Set in San Francisco, *The Joy Club* by Amy Tan explores the relationships between a group of Chinese-American women and their families.

*Juice* by Robert Campbell is an L.A. crime novel with a colorful but unsavory set of characters.

*The Lantern Network* by Ted Allbeury is a British thriller involving a shocking

suicide, an Oxford-educated agent, and a KGB letter drop in Paris.

#### Adult Non-Fiction

*Reclaiming Our Lives*, by Carol Poston and Karen Lison, explores the relevant issues and steps to recovery for adult survivors of incest.

*The Seat of the Soul* by Gary Zukav, author of *The Dancing Wu Li Masters*, describes our ability to transform our lives and the universe.

## MORE Books to Read

#### Fiction for Children

In *Chang's Paper Pony*, author Eleanor Coerr tells the story of a boy living in San Francisco during the 1850s who wants a pony.

*Short & Shivery* is a collection of 30 chilling tales that will have older readers hiding under the covers.

*A Norse Lullaby*, illustrated by Margot Tomes, is a bedtime poem young children will enjoy.

Preschoolers will appreciate *Bizzy Bones and the Lost Quilt*, about a little boy who can't sleep because he lost his favorite blanket.

Parents should note that the new edition of *For Reading Out Loud! A Guide to Sharing Books With Children* has just arrived and is full of new book suggestions for reading aloud.

#### Science Books for Children

*How Things Work* by Michael Folsom is chock full of information about the world around us—ranging from lightbulbs to computers.

Rachel Carson, *Pioneer of Ecology* tells about the courageous author of *Silent Spring* who warned the nation of harmful pollution.

Susan McGrath's book *Fun With Physics* has many ideas on how to turn kids on to science.

*Dolphins and Porpoises* is Dorothy Hinsshaw Patent's introduction to these wonderful animals, a book written for ages 8 and older.

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By June Underwood

Tyler Scott Garner

After having a baby, laughs *Voice* staffer Suzanne Scott, "Some things just don't seem as important as they used to—like sleeping in a dry bed, for example. And I've ironed my clothes, oh say, three times in the last six months, whereas I used to iron them every day."

But 30-year-old Suzanne amends her statement quickly: "No matter how much I complain, it's been worth it. I wouldn't trade motherhood for anything."

The reason, of course, is Tyler Scott Garner, born Sept. 21, 1988, at 12:25 a.m., weighing 9 pounds, 3 ounces. His dad, Rick Garner (also a *Voice* staffer), confirms that Tyler's "the neatest, sweetest guy we've ever met."

The couple's birthing experience at

Mt. Zion Hospital's alternative birthing center was "wonderful," says Suzanne.

"She spent more time in the shower than in the bed," notes Rick, who "got a bit wet" during his stint as labor coach. The only real hitch, he adds, came "as the baby was being born. I looked around for a moment, saw all the medical equip-

ment, and, well, it all became a little overwhelming. [He blacked out.]

"They ended up giving oxygen to me instead of to the baby." Everyone was so concerned about Rick, in fact, that "they forgot to see if the baby was a boy or a girl for the first five minutes."

Suzanne, a graphic artist and typeset-



*Voice staffers Suzanne Scott and Rick Garner are smiling about their special issue, baby Tyler Scott Garner. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS.*

ter, and Rick, a travel agent for Thomas Cook, "fell in love at first talk" nine years ago. They've lived in and around the neighborhood for over a decade—on Fair Oaks, 20th Street and now Chenery Street—and are among our more enthusiastic converts to parenthood.

"We never dreamed how hard it would be," admits Suzanne, "but we never knew how much fun it would be either."

His parents' joy seems to have rubbed off on Tyler (or vice versa). "He's a pretty happy guy," Suzanne says. "And he's fun to be around because he rewards you with these huge smiles. Those smiles, she adds, are especially appealing because they're surrounded by "huge cheeks."

"Tyler is a real people-lover," agrees Rick, 30. "And he's a water lover, too. We're in a family swim program, and Tyler's one of the best little minnows they've got."



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ADDRESS	UNITS	ADDRESS	UNITS	ADDRESS	UNITS
1297 Sanchez St.	2	336 Duncan St	3	2405 24th St	3
550 Guerrero St.	6 Vic	66 Danton St	Home	149 Berkeley	Home
269-269 1/2 27th St	2	266-266A Valley St	2	1314 Noe St	Condo
3902 26th St	4	516 Hill St	Home	240-D Liberty St.	Condo
247-49 Jersey St	2	3828 22nd St.	3	3257 16th St	8
1129-31 Church St	3	4217 22nd St	Home	462 30th St.	Home
500 Liberty St.	3	3951 26th St.	Home	610 Elizabeth St.	2
717 Castro St	3	822 Duncan St.	Home	1227 Masonic	14
29-39 27th St	6	539-41 Noe St.	2	1050 Dolores St.	5
3822 19th St	12	3828 21st St.	Home	3223 Folsom St.	6
3773 22nd St.	Home	3016 25th St	Home	1818 Church St.	Home
319 Hill St.	Home	216 San Jose Ave	4	175 Clipper St	Grand Vic
4089 25th St.	4	132 Faith	Home	121 Brompton St	Home
501 Douglass St.	7	1609 Dolores St.	Home	67 Lamartine	Home
1010 Dolores St.	Grand Vic	45 Mirabel	Home	342 27th St	2
3715 Market St.	Home	1083 Dolores St	Grand Vic	1424 Sanchez St.	Home
1301-05 Sanchez St	3	18 Chattanooga St	Grand Vic	116 Delmar	Grand Vic
1048-52 Sanchez St.	5	3780 23rd St.	Grand Vic	1048 Potrero Ave.	4
3725-27-27A 25th St	3	62-64 Belcher St.	2	1272 So. Van Ness	(planning stages for 15-unit Condo)
394 Fair Oaks St.	3	63 Farnum St.	Home	458 Alvarado	Home
4096 26th St	Home	4131 24th St.	4	1027 Dolores	3
881 San Jose Ave.	4	2401 24th St.	5		

\* Properties owned by Chris Ferrigno in whole or in part.



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# MORE MOUTHS • to feed •

## Aviel Asher-Schapiro

Here's a baby recipe we'd like to share with you, based on an interview with Erik Schapiro and Abbey Asher (who themselves are the main ingredients).

Combine two high-strung, career-oriented, adventurous people who have been romantically linked "on-again, off-again" since they were 14.

Mix them together until they are well blended, married, and living together in a house on 27th Street in Noe Valley. Let stand for about six years, while Erik, 30, works as an assistant to the mayor on the homeless, and Abbey, 31, pursues her career as an instructor and administrator at San Francisco State University.

Then add the spice (when Erik, who is working day and night on the Agnos mayoral campaign, returns home for a romantic interlude).

Surprise! Your creation will be delectable. Just ask Erik and Abbey, who dubbed their 7-pound, 13-ounce dish, born July 11, 1988, at 6:36 a.m., Aviel Asher-Schapiro (now known to many as "the campaign baby.")



Baby "Avi" gives parents Abbey Asher and Erik Schapiro a lesson in cruising.  
PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

"One day you're not a father, the next day you are," says a delighted Erik. "I've become a real advocate of fatherhood. It's a completely different world from all the other things in your life, an incredible emotional bond that you could never have imagined or simulated."

"Avi is a really easy baby to take care of," appends Abbey. "Our pediatric nurse calls him 'mellow-fellow.' And things are getting exciting now, watching his personality evolve, along with all the rapid physical changes."

Avi (who, by the way, is completely but handsomely bald) is definitely raring to go. At 9 months of age, he is standing on his own two feet and demonstrating a marked interest in cruising. "He's very spirited, very upbeat," says his dad. "And he's constantly challenging himself."

"I often ask myself what we did with our time, before Avi," confesses Abbey.

"I guess we both worked more, kept later hours, ate later dinners, did ceramics, got more exercise, and read a lot more."

"I miss those things, but now, after a hectic workday, I come home and it's such a nice feeling to know that I can forget about work, because my baby needs me, and that's that."

"It's never the 'right' time to have a baby," adds Erik, "but it's wonderful when it happens. It just becomes so clear what's important." □

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# CLASSADS

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**NEED HELP** with your bookkeeping? Personalized Bookkeeping Services offered for both small businesses or individuals. Call 826-1315 for information.

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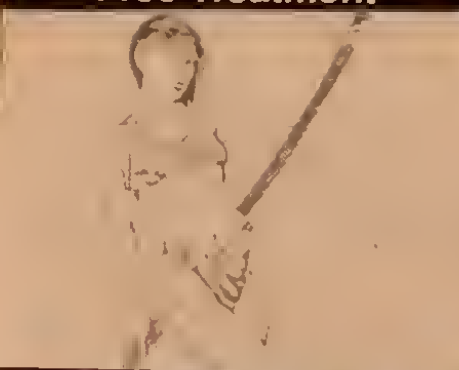
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## How to Use Voice Class Ads

The rate for classified advertising in the *Noe Valley Voice* is 25¢ a word. Just type or print your copy, multiply the number of words by 25¢, enclose a check or money order for the full amount, and mail it to us by the 20th of the month preceding the month of issue. Our address is 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Note: The next issue will appear June 1. Please mail your ad and check (made payable to the *Noe Valley Voice*) so that we receive it by May 20.

Also note: We will not accept payment for insertions in more than six issues. Receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. □

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# CALENDAR

**MAY 1-18:** Sign up for the Girls Slow Pitch SFTBALL LEAGUE: midge! class for 13 and under, intermediales, 14 & 15, seniors, 16 & 17 years old. For locations and information call Linda Woo at 558-4055.

**MAY 1-JUNE 24:** Individualized instruction and limited class size are offered at the CLAY STUDIO'S spring session. Julian Ave. between 14th & 15th Sts. Call 431-6296 for a class schedule.

**MAY 2 & 16:** The public is encouraged to attend bi-monthly meetings of the San Francisco HEALTH COMMISSION. Call the office of the commission secretary, Sandy Duye Mori, for location and agenda.

**MAY 2-JUNE 3:** Explore two different creative worlds at "Dos Mundos," a MULTIMEDIA EXHIBIT of work by Lorraine Garcia and Enrique Vidal. 1-6 pm, Tues.-Sat., reception for the artists Fri., May 5, 7-9:30 pm. Galeria de la Raza/Studio 24, 2857 24th St. B26-B009.

**MAY 2-JUNE 6:** ArtHouse, a project of California Lawyers for the Arts and the San Francisco Art Commission, presents seven Tuesday evening seminars to help artists find and develop LIVE/WORK SPACE. 7-9 pm. Intersection for the Arts, 766 Valencia St. 431-0556.



Monica Palacios promises to dish out some biting satirical comedy when she joins Marga Gomez in a "Comedy Fiesta" at the Victoria Theatre May 6. PHOTO BY BECKY VILLASENOR

**MAY 3:** The Infant-Toddler LAPSIT for infants to 3 years continues every Wed. at 7 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 285-2788.

**MAY 3:** NDW's Reproductive Rights Task Force meets to organize a CDUNTERMOBILIZATION against Operation Rescue's attacks on women's health clinics. (The anti-abortion group has threatened to close down a city clinic on May 13, the day before Mother's Day.) 7:30 p.m. Women's Building, 3543 18th St. 861-BB80 or B26-0737.

**MAY 3 & 17:** Revive a popular 19th-century sport at SENIOR CROQUET DAYS. 1-4 pm. S.F. Recreation and Park Department's Croquet Lawns, Stern Grove, 19th Ave. & Wawona St. 776-4104.

**MAY 4:** Poet Benito Balan will read from his books and militant muralist Jose Hernandez Delgadillo will present a slideshow and bilingual talk on political PUBLIC ART in Mexico. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. 282-9246.

**MAY 4:** A Traveling Jewish Theatre presents a discussion of the process of CO-CREATION with the three co-authors/directors/performers of *Heart of the World*. 10 pm, following a performance of their new play at 8:30 pm. Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro St. B61-4880.

**MAY 4:** Monica Kehoe reads from her NEW BDDK, *Lesbians Over 60 Speak for Themselves*. 7:30 pm. Old Wives Tales Bookstore, 1009 Valencia St. B21-4675.

**MAY 5, 6, 11-13:** THICK DANCE/THEATER performs "Chit in the Game," a contemporary myth that traces seven archetypal characters from the collective unconscious to "life in the last lane" symbolized by a life-sized Monopoly game. 8:30 pm, 9 pm, May 11. Third Wave Dance Theater, 3316 24th St. 282-4020.

**MAY 5-7:** Resident Noe Valley Ministry JAZZ DANCE instructor Lauren Coleman appears in Dancing Ladies Productions' "The Jam." 8:30 pm, Fri. & Sat., 3 pm, Sun. The Next Stage, 166B Bush at Gough St. B61-5261.



**MAY 6:** Fasten your seat belts and fly over to the Randall Museum for a MODEL AIRPLANE workshop with the San Francisco Vultures. 1 pm. 199 Museum Way, B63-1399.

**MAY 6:** Join San Francisco Friends of the Urban Forest on a stroll through the classic Victorian neighborhood around Dolores Park. 10 am-noon. Meet at Cumberland & Sanchez Sts. For information call 543-5000.

**MAY 6:** The 23rd Annual Cinco de Mayo PARADE features colorful Central American folkloric dancers, mariachi and salsa groups, marching bands and decorated floats. 11 am. Start at 20th St. & Mission, south to 24th St., and east to Potrero. B26-1401.

**MAY 6:** DiHer Cinema presents a destruction derby of SHORT FILMS including *Nightmare Angel* and Kenneth Anger's *Kustom Kar Kommandos*. 8:30 pm. Artists' Television Access, 992 Valencia St. B24-3890.

**MAY 6 & 7:** Pete Escovedo and Sheila E. headline a host of entertainers at the Cinco de Mayo CULTURAL FESTIVAL, including contests, traditional delicacies and unique handicrafts. Noon-6 pm. Potrero del Sol/Raza Park, 25th St. at Potrero Ave. B26-1401.

**MAY 6 & 17:** Learn to actively market yourself and find effective ways of fielding illegal questions at a "Successful INTERVIEWING TECHNIQUES" workshop. 9:30 am-12:30 pm, May 6; 6-9 pm, May 17. Alumnae Resources, 660 Mission St. 546-0125.

**MAY 6-28:** The JULIAN THEATRE and dance/theatre/music company Tumbleweed present *Moment to Midnight*, based on the Persephone/Demeter myth. Fri., Sat. & Sun., excluding May 26. 8:30 pm. New College, 777 Valencia St. 626-B987.

**MAY 7:** The Rocky Mountain COUNTRY FAIR promises fun and revelry, including children's activities, a petting corral, a bluegrass band and refreshments. Noon-4 pm; auction and raffle at 2:30 pm. Rocky Mountain Participatory Nursery School, Peixotto Park, 15th & Beaver Sts. 552-2929.

**MAY 7:** The Cinco de Mayo RAZATHON is a 3.8-mile race through the streets of the Mission District, a walkathon division is also featured. 9 am. Begin and end at Ralph Playground, Potrero & Army Sts. Call B26-1401 for registration.

**MAY 7:** The Noe Valley PDETRY SERIES presents John Dolan and Michael Campbell reading from their work. 8 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272.

**MAY 7-JUNE 15:** Local artist Irene Hendrick will show her WATERCOLORS at the Courtyard Cafe. 9 am-6 pm. 3913 24th St. B28-0344.

**MAY 8:** Walter Traveso will provide music for a free SPRING DANCE. 1-3 pm. Luncheon will be served at noon with a suggested \$1.25 donation. Diamond Senior Center, 117 Diamond St. B63-3507.

**MAY 9:** Judith Bettelheim, art history professor and co-author of *CARIBBEAN FESTIVAL ARTS*, presents a slideshow/talk on the region's arts seen at various festivals. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. 282-9246.

**MAY 10, 12, 24 & 26:** DPTIONS for Women Over 40 offers a series of workshops to help mid-life and older women enter or re-enter the workplace. The Women's Building, 3543 18th St. Call 431-6405 for times and registration.

**MAY 13:** Find a myriad of miscellany at the 100 individual GARAGE SALES of the annual Fair Oaks Street Fair. 9 am-4 pm. Fair Oaks between 21st & 26th Sts. 285-2119.

**MAY 13:** The legendary RAMBLIN' JACK ELLIOT, "the last of the Brooklyn Cowboys" and one of Bob Dylan's major influences, weaves his music and storytelling spell. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272.

**MAY 13:** Composer/pianist Doug Goodkin performs SOLO PIANO pieces including jazz standards by Thelonious Monk and Bill Evans and original compositions. 8 pm. San Francisco Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

Readers young and old will find bargains at the Friends of the Library annual book sale at Fort Mason June 1-4. PHOTO BY STEVE PARENTE

**MAY 13:** Make tracks to the Golden Gate MODEL RAILROAD Club's tour of one of the largest model railroads in the country. 1-4 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way, B63-1399.

**MAY 13:** The Noe Valley Co-op Nursery School's second annual CHILDREN'S ART SHOW features watercolors, tempera and collage, wine and cheese will be served. 2-5 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 285-5208.

**MAY 15:** PENMANSHIP counts, learn more about your personality traits at "Graphofogy: What the Pen Reveals." 6-8:30 pm. Alumnae Resources, 660 Mission St. 546-0125.

**MAY 16:** The Noe Valley Library presents VIDEOS: ages 3-5 at 10 & 11 am; ages 6 and older at 3 pm. 451 Jersey St. 285-2788.

**MAY 16:** ALICE WALKER reads from her new book, *The Temple of My Familiar*. 7:30 pm. Old Wives Tales Bookstore, 1009 Valencia St. B21-4675.

**MAY 18:** DANCE to the rhythms of Afro-Caribbean music at a "Tribute to the Tropical Rain Forests" with Canto-america. 9 pm. Cesar's Latin Palace, 3140 Mission St. 648-6611.

**MAY 20:** The San Francisco Concert Chorale presents its annual VARIETY SHOW featuring an assortment of musical numbers and skits. 8 pm. San Francisco Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

**MAY 20:** Discover "Keys to STRESS-FREE LIVING." 10 am-4 pm. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. B21-1117.

**MAY 23:** *Noe Valley Voice*'s "Landmarks" writer Larry Berestord will present LDCAL HISTDRY highlights, and a speaker from St. Paul's will tell the church's history at the meeting of the Upper Noe Neighbors. 7:30 pm. Upper Noe Recreation Center, Sanchez at Day St. 641-5989.

**MAY 27:** Bring your disk or videotape for free admission to the Amiga COMPUTER ANIMATION open screening. 8:30 pm. Artists' Television Access, 992 Valencia St. B24-3890.

**MAY 27:** The Elder Women's League will discuss proposals for long-term CARE INSURANCE at their meeting. 10 am. Golden Gate Lutheran Church, 19th & Dolores Sts. 550-1660.

**MAY 27-29:** Enjoy the Pickle Family CIRCUS' 15th anniversary season performances. Noon & 3:30 pm. Glen Park, Elk, Bosworth & Chenery Sts. 285-3096.

**JUNE 1-4:** The Friends of the San Francisco Public Library present their 25th annual BDDK SALE. A preview sale and silent auction are scheduled from 4-7 pm, June 1, the sale continues 10 am-5 pm, June 2 & 3, and 10 am-3 pm, June 4, at which time all books will be half-price. Fort Mason, Pier 3 at the foot of Buchanan St. 558-3857.

**JUNE 3 & 4:** There will be treasures galore at the Dominican Guild GARAGE SALE. 10 am-4 pm. ICA Auditorium, 24th & Guerrero Sts.

## MAY 1989

**MAY 3:** GREENTALKS presents Roger Herried discussing "From Fire to Fusion: Energy Addiction and Earth's Survival." 7:30 pm. New College, 777 Valencia St. 255-2940.

**MAY 3:** The city's Commission on the Aging has scheduled a PUBLIC HEARING on a proposed Service Area Plan for the Aging, 1989-1993. 10 am. Room 1194, Slate Building, 350 McAllister St. B64-6051.

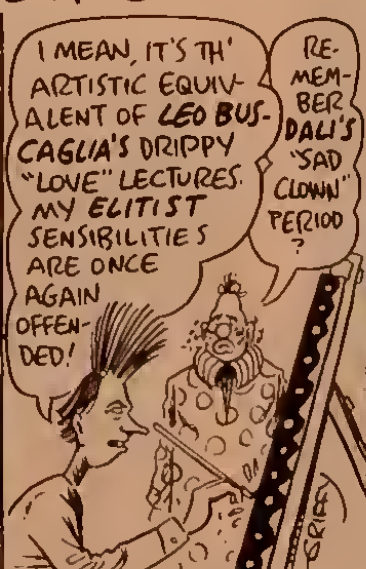
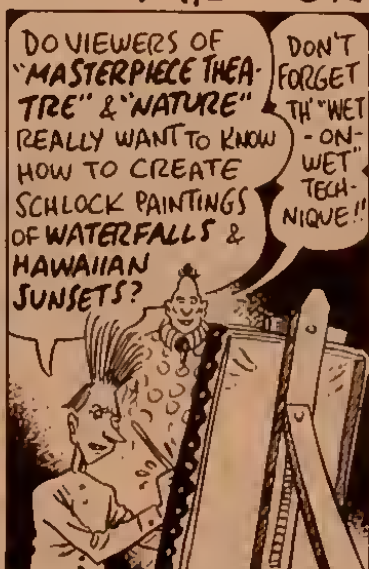
**MAY 6:** Marga Gomez and Monica Palacios, the only Latin female COMEDY DUO in the universe and Oakland, reunite in "The Comedy Fiesta" to celebrate the day after Cinco de Mayo. 9 pm. Victoria Theatre, 2961 16th St. B63-7576.

**MAY 6:** Eclectic guitarist SANDY BULL is joined by Senegalese master percussionist Aiyb Dieng, who has been featured with Herbie Hancock and Mick Jagger. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272.

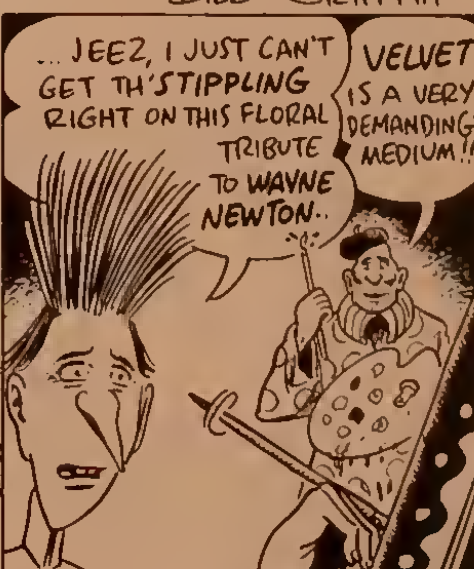
ZIPPY



"ART DRECKO"



BILL GRIFFITH



### The Scoop on CALENDAR

Please send calendar items before the 15th day of the month preceding the month of issue to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Items are published on a space-available basis, with Noe Valley neighborhood events receiving priority. Note: The next issue of the *Voice* will appear June 1, the deadline for calendar items is May 15.